

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2018

Call to Order: The Vice Chair, Dana Harrington Conner called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Representative Stephanie T. Bolden (General Assembly), Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Ariana Langford (Victim Voices Heard), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Vincent Poppiti (Fox Rothschild)

Also in attendance were: Hon. Jennifer Ranji (FC), Linda Carmichael (Superior Court), Sean Lugg (DOJ), Kathleen Kelly (CJC), Ericka Blythe (CJC), Det. Jeffrey Hill (Capitol Police), Cari Chapman (DOJ), Mamie Charest (People's Place), Marcey Rezac (People's Place), Tim Brandau (CHILD, Inc.), Claire Demaites (FCEP), Katherine Goemaat (JFS Delaware), and Shamla McLaurin (Catholic Charities)

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Karen Ewing.

Minutes: A motion to approve the March 12, 2018 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

VAWA Implementation Committee Information: Kathleen Kelly (CJC) sought approval from the Council for the following grant programs:

- **FFY2015 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$904,496.00 for the FFY2015 STOP VAWA Grant. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$45,225.00 be awarded to Family Court of the State of Delaware for a Domestic Violence Coordinator to serve as the primary contact with other courts, advocates, prosecutors and law enforcement. The DV Coordinator will also assist with routine monitoring of compliance of respondents with Court orders. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved with one abstention due to participation on the VAWA Committee.
- **FFY2017 Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$352,267.00 for the FFY2017 Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$201,979.00 be awarded to YWCA of Delaware, Inc. to continue services for the Rape Crisis Center for New Castle County. Additional recommendation \$132,665.00 be awarded to ContactLifeline, Inc. to continue support their Rape Crisis Services in Kent & Sussex Counties. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved with one abstention due to participation on the VAWA Committee.

Presentation: Family Court Enhancement Program – PFA Video Script: Feedback from the video script was positive and it was discussed that future goals are to translate video into Spanish and Creole. Currently, a Spanish translator is in the room translating the video; in addition, to a Commissioner who answers any questions that arise before the calendar calling. Video will be on the Family Court website as well.

Family Court Enhancement Project: Judge Ranji (FC) updated the Council that the FCEP focus the last quarter has been on training judicial and court staff through the Battered Woman's Justice Project. Future trainings will be for family law attorneys. In addition, training was conducted on use of the SAFER tool which is designed to get judges to slow down and connect information pieces in custody cases involving PFAs. The training generated good questions which will be addressed during upcoming meetings with the Family Court judges and commissioners.

Claire DeMatteis (FCEP) restated the objective established for the FCEP which was to improve court with litigates during custody and PFA proceedings. With that in mind, a PFA packet was created with the assistance of the Widener Law Clinic; in addition, to the revision of the child custody packet. Both will be available in Spanish and Creole. It was established that pro se' litigates will benefit from these information packets that will be on the Family Court website. Once determined, the new Domestic Violence Coordinator will move forward with the remaining recommendations.

DOJ Family Violence Funding: Tim Brandau, CHILD, Inc. and Mamie Charest, People's Place II, reinforced that the Domestic Violence Service Providers and the Attorney General's office have a long standing relationship that has been focused on working together collaboratively to enhance the core services provided to DV victims and their children. These women and children face extreme risks and we place a high value on continuing to work with our community partners to enhance service delivery. We are fearful that moving the family violence funds will destabilize services and reverse the tremendous progress made over the past thirty years.

The DOJ's support in eradicating domestic violence from our state is crucial. Continuing to include the family violence funds in the DOJ's budget provides the AG's office with direct oversight of outcomes and services while providing the ability to adjust services to meet the needs of victims and our community.

Should the funding be moved to the Grant-in-Aid budget it will become much more susceptible to sweeping cuts increasing the likelihood of destabilization of these core services.

A motion was made to send a letter from the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to the Joint Finance Committee cc: Office of Management & Budget, Comptroller General and Governor Carney supporting that the family violence funds remain under the Department of Justice budget while restoring the funding to the FY 2017 level and seconded.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Children & DV: Secretary Manning (DCSYF) the Committee met on April 30th. The committee had a presentation by an online parenting education provider. The presentation was followed by a lengthy discussion on in person parenting education and online parenting

education courses. The committee also received an update on the Safe and Together training received by the Domestic Violence liaisons and select Division of Family Services Supervisors. The next meeting will be August 27, 2018, 10:00 a.m. at the Delaware Public Service Commission in Dover, DE

Criminal Justice: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) stated the DVCC has been awarded funding for the new High Risk Coordinator which will be piloted in Kent County in Fall 2018. HB204 is in the initial stages and was discussed at the last meeting.

Treatment: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) stated that the Committee is continuing to review recommendations from the Evaluation of Batterers' Intervention Program report and the last recommendation will be review at the July 11th meeting.

Immigration: Laura Graham (CLASI) stated the committee is working to establish voting members and is reviewing the FIRT recommendation of conducting outreach to the non-citizen population of Delaware.

Training Committee: Aimee String (DVCC) stated the Dr. Jackie Campbell will be conducting Danger Assessment training on May 17, 2018 which has a waitlist. In addition, the Committee is reviewing the needs assessment from the Strategic Planning Report.

Public Awareness & Education: Maureen Monagle (DVCC) stated the Committee reviewed recommendations from the DVCC Strategic Planning Meeting – Report. They discussed content for a social media campaign as ways to learn more about national education and prevention initiatives such as creating a theme of RESPECT and incorporating this theme into a year plan.

Elderly & DV: Representative Bolden stated the committee had a successful outreach table at Legislative Hall in March. Outreach materials will be soon distributed to civic associations and churches. The Committee is working to develop a method to inform the elder population such as TV spots, WITN 22. In addition, Dana Harrington Conner was invited to a future meeting. The Elderly and Domestic Violence Committee met on April 16, 2018.

Legislative Committee:

HB 301 was passed and signed by the Governor allowing three year terms for At-Large Members; in addition, allows the Council to recommend the At-Large Member representing the health care community. SB209 and SB210 have been assigned to the Finance Committee. The Council will be evaluating how to more effectively track and “way in” on the discussions surrounding legislation since the Council only meets quarterly.

Executive Director's Report and Announcements:

- Dr. Silverstein has resigned from the Council. Appointment recommendations from the Council should be forwarded to Chief Judge Newell or Maureen Monagle.
- DVCC's Executive Committee established new guidelines and polices for the DVCC Outstanding Service Award. Highlights from the handout include: open to public; nominations will begin July 2018; and award presentation to occur during October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation.
- Federal funding level is up for reauthorization.

Public Comment:

- Tim Brandau (CHILD, Inc.) discussed his opposition to the Children & DV Committee discussion regarding on-line parenting course. He stated that face to face courses allow for exchange of strategies and interaction among parents.
- Katherine Goemaat (Jewish Family Services) stated that there is no substitute for an onsite parenting course. Posttests indicate that it is beneficial and parental stories are shared which add value to the course.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 10 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.